

What is claimed is:

1. A method for selecting a swapping technique from a group consisting of a bit-swapping and a gain-swapping techniques in a discrete multi-tone (DMT) system having multiple sub-channels, gain factor constraints, a threshold index value (T),
5 and a maximum mean square error (MSE_{max}) and a minimum mean square error (MSE_{min}), the method comprising:

determining a first index value (I) and a second index value (J) based on MSE_{max} , MSE_{min} and said gain factor constraints according to a predetermined manner, I denoting range of improvement when adopting the gain-swapping as the swapping
10 technique, and J denoting range of improvement when adopting a combination of the gain-swapping and the bit-swapping as the swapping technique;
determine whether larger one of I and J is larger than T;

if the larger one of I and J is larger than T, determining whether I is equal to or larger than J; and selecting the gain-swapping as the swapping technique if I is
15 equal to or larger than J.

2. The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising a step of
selecting a combination of gain-swapping and bit-swapping as the swapping
technique if I is smaller than J.

3. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the gain factor constraints have a maximum gain factor constraint (G_{cm}) and a minimum gain factor constraint (G_{cn}), g_{max} denotes the gain of the sub-channel respecting MSE_{max} , g_{min} denotes the gain of the sub-channel respecting MSE_{min} , said predetermined manner comprises

the steps of:

obtaining a first gain margin value (G_{mv1}) by subtracting g_{\max} from G_{cm} , and

obtaining a second gain margin value (G_{mv2}) by subtracting G_{cn} from g_{\min} ;

obtaining a first parameter ($P1$) by subtracting MSE_{\min} from MSE_{\max} ; and

- 5 obtaining the I by doubling a smallest one of the group consisting of G_{mv1} , G_{mv2} and $(0.5*P1)$.

4. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the gain factor constraints have a

maximum gain factor constraint (G_{cm}) and a minimum gain factor constraint

- 10 (G_{cn}), g_{\max} denotes the gain of the sub-channel respecting MSE_{\max} , g_{\min} denotes the gain of the sub-channel respecting MSE_{\min} , MSE_{avgbs} denotes an arithmetic average of MSE_{\max} and MSE_{\min} after bit-swapping and MSE_{maxbs} denotes MSE_{\max} after bit-swapping, and as MSE_{maxbs} is smaller than MSE_{avgbs} , the predetermined manner comprises the steps of:

- 15 obtaining a third gain margin value (G_{mv3}) by subtracting G_{cn} from g_{\max} , and obtaining a fourth gain margin value (G_{mv4}) by subtracting g_{\min} from G_{cm} ;

obtaining a second parameter ($P2$) by subtracting MSE_{maxbs} from MSE_{minbs} ;

obtaining a third parameter ($P3$) by subtracting MSE_{maxbs} and a smallest one of the group, consisting of G_{mv3} , G_{mv4} and $(0.5*P2)$, from MSE_{avgbs} ; and

- 20 obtaining the J by subtracting MSE_{\min} and $(2*P3)$ from MSE_{\max} .

5. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the gain factor constraints have a

maximum gain factor constraint (G_{cm}) and a minimum gain factor constraint

(G_{cn}), g_{\max} denotes the gain of the sub-channel respecting MSE_{\max} , g_{\min} denotes the

gain of the sub-channel respecting MSE_{min} , MSE_{avgbs} denoted the arithmetic average of MSE_{max} and MSE_{min} after bit-swapping and MSE_{maxbs} denotes MSE_{max} after bit-swapping and MSE_{minbs} denotes MSE_{min} after bit-swapping, and as MSE_{maxbs} is not smaller than MSE_{avgbs} , the predetermined manner comprises the steps of:

obtaining a fifth gain margin value (Gmv5) by subtracting g_{max} from Gcm, and obtaining a sixth gain margin value (Gmv6) by subtracting Gcn from g_{min} ; obtaining a fourth parameter (P4) by subtracting MSE_{minbs} from MSE_{maxbs} ; obtaining a fifth parameter (P5) by subtracting MSE_{avgbs} and a smallest one of the group, consisting of Gmv5, Gmv6 and $(0.5*P4)$, from MSE_{maxbs} ; and obtaining the J by subtracting MSE_{min} and $(2*P5)$ from MSE_{max} .

6. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the gain factor constraints have a maximum gain factor constraint (Gcm) and a minimum gain factor constraint (Gcn), g_{max} denotes the gain of the sub-channel respecting MSE_{max} , g_{min} denotes the gain of the sub-channel respecting MSE_{min} , MSE_{avgbs} denotes the arithmetic average of MSE_{max} and MSE_{min} after bit-swapping, MSE_{maxbs} denotes MSE_{max} after bit-swapping, MSE_{minbs} denotes MSE_{min} after bit-swapping, and as MSE_{maxbs} is smaller than MSE_{avgbs} , the predetermined manner comprises the steps of:

obtaining a seventh gain margin value (Gmv7) by subtracting Gcn from g_{max} , and obtaining a eighth gain margin value (Gmv8) by subtracting g_{min} from Gcm; obtaining a sixth parameter (P6) by subtracting MSE_{maxbs} from MSE_{minbs} ; obtaining a seventh parameter (P7) by subtracting a smallest one of the group, consisting of Gmv7, Gmv8 and $(0.5*P6)$, and MSE_{avgbs} from MSE_{minbs} ; and

obtaining the J by subtracting MSE_{min} and $(2*P7)$ from MSE_{max} .

7. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the gain factor constraints have a maximum gain factor constraint (G_{cm}) and a minimum gain factor constraint (G_{cn}), g_{max} denotes the gain of the sub-channel respecting MSE_{max} , g_{min} denotes the gain of the channel respecting MSE_{min} , MSE_{avgbs} denotes the arithmetic average of MSE_{max} and MSE_{min} after bit-swapping, MSE_{maxbs} denotes MSE_{max} after bit-swapping, MSE_{minbs} denotes MSE_{min} after bit-swapping, and as MSE_{maxbs} is not smaller than MSE_{avgbs} , the predetermined manner comprises the steps of:
- 10 obtaining a ninth gain margin value (G_{mv9}) by subtracting g_{max} from G_{cm} , and obtaining a tenth gain margin value (G_{mv10}) by subtracting G_{cn} from g_{min} ;
- obtaining a eighth parameter ($P8$) by subtracting MSE_{minbs} from MSE_{maxbs} ;
- obtaining a ninth parameter ($P9$) by subtracting MSE_{minbs} and a smallest one of the group, consisting of G_{mv9} , G_{mv10} and $(0.5*P8)$, from MSE_{avgbs} ; and
- 15 obtaining the J by subtracting MSE_{min} and $(2*P9)$ from MSE_{max} .

8. A method for performing gain-swapping in a discrete multi-tone (DMT) system having multiple sub-channels, gain factor constraints, and a maximum mean square error (MSE_{max}) and a minimum mean square error (MSE_{min}), wherein the
- 20 gain factor constraints have a maximum gain factor constraint (G_{cm}) and a minimum gain factor constraint (G_{cn}), g_{max} denotes the gain of the sub-channel respecting MSE_{max} , g_{min} denotes the gain of the channel respecting MSE_{min} , said method comprising the steps of:
- obtaining an eleventh gain margin value (G_{mv11}) by subtracting g_{max} from G_{cm} ,

- and obtaining a twelfth gain margin value (G_{mv12}) by subtracting G_{cn} from g_{min} ;
- obtaining a tenth parameter (P_{10}) by subtracting MSE_{min} from MSE_{max} ;
- obtaining the value MIN of the smallest one of the group consisting of G_{mv11} , G_{mv12} and $(0.5 * P_{10})$; and
- 5 adding gain in amount of MIN to the sub-channel having MSE_{max} and subtracting gain in amount of MIN from the sub-channel having MSE_{min} .
9. A swapping technique selector for selecting an optimal swapping technique from a group consisting of a bit-swapping and a gain-swapping techniques in a discrete
- 10 multi-tone (DMT) system having multiple sub-channels, gain factor constraints, and a threshold index value (T) and a maximum mean square error (MSE_{max}) and a minimum mean square error (MSE_{min}), the swapping technique selector comprising:
- a performance improvement pre-calculator for determining a first index value (I)
- 15 and a second index value (J) based on MSE_{max} , MSE_{min} and said gain factor constraints according to a predetermined manner, I denoting range of improvement when adopting the gain-swapping as the optimal swapping technique, and J denoting range of improvement when adopting a combination of the gain-swapping and the bit-swapping as the optimal swapping technique;
- 20 a threshold comparator, connected to the performance improvement pre-calculator, for determining whether the larger one of I and J is larger than T;
- a performance improvement comparator, connected to the threshold comparator, for selectively determining whether I is equal to or larger than J; and
- a swapping technique selection device, connected to the performance

improvement comparator, for selecting either the gain-swapping or the combination of gain-swapping and bit-swapping as the optimal swapping technique.

10. The selector of claim 9, wherein the gain factor constraints have a maximum gain factor constraint (G_{cm}) and a minimum gain factor constraint (G_{cn}), g_{max} denotes the gain of the sub-channel respecting MSE_{max} , g_{min} denotes the gain of the sub-channel respecting MSE_{min} , said predetermined manner comprises the steps of: obtaining a first gain margin value (G_{mv1}) by subtracting g_{max} from G_{cm} , and obtaining a second gain margin value (G_{mv2}) by subtracting G_{cn} from g_{min} ;
10 obtaining a first parameter ($P1$) by subtracting MSE_{min} from MSE_{max} ; and obtaining the I by doubling a smallest one of the group consisting of G_{mv1} , G_{mv2} and $(0.5*P1)$.

11. The selector of claim 9, wherein the gain factor constraints have a maximum gain factor constraint (G_{cm}) and a minimum gain factor constraint (G_{cn}), g_{max} denotes the gain of the sub-channel respecting MSE_{max} , g_{min} denotes the gain of the sub-channel respecting MSE_{min} , MSE_{avgbs} denotes an arithmetic average of MSE_{max} and MSE_{min} after bit-swapping and MSE_{maxbs} denotes MSE_{max} after bit-swapping, and as MSE_{maxbs} is smaller than MSE_{avgbs} , the predetermined manner comprises the steps of:
15 obtaining a third gain margin value (G_{mv3}) by subtracting G_{cn} from g_{max} , and obtaining a fourth gain margin value (G_{mv4}) by subtracting g_{min} from G_{cm} ;
obtaining a second parameter ($P2$) by subtracting MSE_{maxbs} from MSE_{minbs} ;
20 obtaining a third parameter ($P3$) by subtracting MSE_{maxbs} and a smallest one of the

group, consisting of G_{mv3} , G_{mv4} and $(0.5*P2)$, from MSE_{avgbs} ; and
obtaining the J by subtracting MSE_{min} and $(2*P3)$ from MSE_{max} .

12. The selector of claim 9, wherein the gain factor constraints have a maximum
5 gain factor constraint (G_{cm}) and a minimum gain factor constraint (G_{cn}), g_{max}
denotes the gain of the sub-channel respecting MSE_{max} , g_{min} denotes the gain of the
sub-channel respecting MSE_{min} , MSE_{avgbs} denotes the arithmetic average of
 MSE_{max} and MSE_{min} after bit-swapping and MSE_{maxbs} denotes MSE_{max} after bit-
swapping and MSE_{minbs} denotes MSE_{min} after bit-swapping, and as MSE_{maxbs} is not
10 smaller than MSE_{avgbs} , the predetermined manner comprises the steps of:
obtaining a fifth gain margin value (G_{mv5}) by subtracting g_{max} from G_{cm} , and
obtaining a sixth gain margin value (G_{mv6}) by subtracting G_{cn} from g_{min} ;
obtaining a fourth parameter ($P4$) by subtracting MSE_{minbs} from MSE_{maxbs} ;
obtaining a fifth parameter ($P5$) by subtracting MSE_{avgbs} and a smallest one of the
15 group, consisting of G_{mv5} , G_{mv6} and $(0.5*P4)$, from MSE_{maxbs} ; and
obtaining the J by subtracting MSE_{min} and $(2*P5)$ from MSE_{max} .

13. The selector of claim 9, wherein the gain factor constraints have a maximum
gain factor constraint (G_{cm}) and a minimum gain factor constraint (G_{cn}), g_{max}
20 denotes the gain of the sub-channel respecting MSE_{max} , g_{min} denotes the gain of the
sub-channel respecting MSE_{min} , MSE_{avgbs} denotes the arithmetic average of MSE_{max}
and MSE_{min} after bit-swapping, MSE_{maxbs} denotes MSE_{max} after bit-swapping,
 MSE_{minbs} denotes MSE_{min} after bit-swapping, and as MSE_{maxbs} is smaller than
 MSE_{avgbs} , the predetermined manner comprises the steps of:

obtaining a seventh gain margin value (Gmv7) by subtracting Gcn from g_{\max} , and
 obtaining a eighth gain margin value (Gmv8) by subtracting g_{\min} from Gcm;
 obtaining a sixth parameter (P6) by subtracting MSE_{\maxbs} from MSE_{\minbs} ;
 obtaining a seventh parameter (P7) by subtracting a smallest one of the group
 5 consisting of Gmv7, Gmv8 and $(0.5*P6)$ and MSE_{\avgbs} from MSE_{\minbs} ; and
 obtaining the J by subtracting MSE_{\min} and $(2*P7)$ from MSE_{\max} .

14. The selector of claim 9, wherein the gain factor constraints have a maximum
 gain factor constraint (Gcm) and a minimum gain factor constraint (Gcn), g_{\max}
 10 denotes the gain of the sub-channel respecting MSE_{\max} , g_{\min} denotes the gain of the
 channel respecting MSE_{\min} , MSE_{\avgbs} denotes the arithmetic average of MSE_{\max} and
 MSE_{\min} after bit-swapping, MSE_{\maxbs} denotes MSE_{\max} after bit-swapping, MSE_{\minbs}
 denotes MSE_{\min} after bit-swapping, and as MSE_{\maxbs} is not smaller than MSE_{\avgbs} ,
 the predetermined manner comprises the steps of:
 15 obtaining a ninth gain margin value (Gmv 9) by subtracting g_{\max} from Gcm, and
 obtaining a tenth gain margin value (Gmv10) by subtracting Gcn from g_{\min} ;
 obtaining a eighth parameter (P8) by subtracting MSE_{\minbs} from MSE_{\maxbs} ;
 obtaining a ninth parameter (P9) by subtracting MSE_{\minbs} and a smallest one of the
 group consisting of Gmv9, Gmv10 and $(0.5*P8)$ from MSE_{\avgbs} ; and
 20 obtaining the J by subtracting MSE_{\min} and $(2*P9)$ from MSE_{\max} .